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18-29 November 2002

SECOND REPORTING PROCESS ON UNCCD IMPLEMENTATION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Developed country Parties

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I. REPORTING PHASE

A. Background

1. In accordance with article 26 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the decisions of its Conference of the Parties (COP), particularly decision 11/COP.1, developed country Parties to the Convention are required to communicate, through the UNCCD secretariat, reports on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention.

2. Submissions from developed country Parties dealing with the reporting and review exercise shall comply with the format and content of reports as outlined in decision 11/COP.1, paragraph 10 (c) (quoted in document ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1).

3. Developed country Parties followed the above-mentioned format for their reports to COP 3 on Africa. On the basis of the recommendations of a meeting held in Recife, Brazil, on reporting of developed country Parties, the secretariat has prepared a note to assist developed countries in the structuring of their reports for COP 4 relating to Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Central and Eastern Europe.

4. The Conference of the Parties, by its decision 1/COP 5, established a Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) which, according to that decision, shall convene its first session from 18 to 29 November 2002.

5. Furthermore, decision 1/COP.5 requests that the first session of the CRIC shall review updates to reports already available and/or new reports from all Parties, to be submitted no later than 30 April 2002.

6. The review process shall examine, *inter alia*, reports submitted by the Parties, information and advice from the Global Mechanism (GM) and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), and reports by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as such other reports as the Conference of the Parties may call for.

7. The COP 5 felt important for the process to accommodate a peer review of the national reports and their updates. The secretariat will fulfil this requirement while facilitating the preparation of regional inputs for the review process. This will be achieved through the organization of regional meetings. The delegations from affected country Parties are expected to deliver a short presentation on their new/updated national reports, to be followed by discussion with multilateral and bilateral development partners. It is also suggested that the reports from developed country Parties, United Nations and intergovernmental organizations be considered as they relate to the pertinent regional meeting.

B. Adjustment to the reports resulting from decision 1/COP.5

8. Due to the exceptional case where all regions are subject to review at the CRIC in November 2002, as requested by decision 1/COP.5, developed country Parties shall report on measures taken under the Convention for all regions to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Conventions for all regions in a report submitted no later than 30 April 2002.

9. The format of the updated reports for developed countries should follow the headings of decision 11/COP.1, paragraph 10 (c), taking into account the recommendations of a meeting held in Recife, Brazil, on the reporting of developed country Parties. The UNCCD secretariat is therefore proposing, as it did for COP 4 in order to facilitate the process, a possible structure for the reports of developed country Parties; this is contained in annex to this document.

10. Whereas it is expected that some developed country Parties might not be able to provide updates with respect to all headings, they are nevertheless requested to list the headings without any specific entry. Adhering to tnis proposed approach will simplify the comparison between the old and updated reports as well as facilitate the preliminary analysis requested in decision 1/COP.5, paragraph 7.

11. Developed country Parties that have not yet submitted a report on the implementation of the Convention shall produce a full report using the above-mentioned format and covering the period starting with the ratification and/or accession to the Convention until the submission date i.e. 30 April 2002.

12. It should be noted that the report as well as the summary provided by developed country Parties should also focus, where and when appropriate, on the key thematic issues identified in decision 1/COP.5 and outlined for the review process at the CRIC. These key thematic issues are the following:

(i) Participatory processes involving civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations;
(ii) Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements;
(iii) Resource mobilization and coordination, both domestic and international, including conclusions of partnership agreements;
(iv) Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies;
(v) Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land and for early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought;
(vi) Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment;
(vii) Access by affected country Parties, particularly affected developing country Parties, to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how.

C. Adjustment to the reports resulting from other COP decisions

13. In accordance with decision 3/COP.5, Parties are invited to consider the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) contained in document ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/6 and highlight the steps taken and progress made in order to follow up on recommendations made, particularly with respect to the implementation of the UNCCD at the local level, as well as the negotiation and conclusion of partnership agreements based on national, subregional and regional action programmes.

14. In response to decision 10/COP.4, Parties are invited to include in their reports information on scientific and technical activities to combat desertification as well as on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology.

II. REVIEW PROCESS

A. Organization of the review process leading up to the first session of the CRIC

15. The following steps will be taken in order to prepare for the first session of the CRIC, taking into consideration the various legislative provisions guiding the reporting process:

(i) Developed country reports to be submitted to the secretariat no later than 30 April 2002;
(ii) The secretariat will prepare a compilation, synthesis and preliminary analysis of the reports (May-June 2002);
(iii) Convening of four regional meetings from which inputs for the review process will be obtained and at which developed country Parties will be invited to present their reports as well as to contribute to the discussion (July-August 2002);
(iv) Distribution of the official documents for the CRIC;
(vi) Convening of the CRIC (November 2002).

16. The secretariat is charged with facilitating the reporting and review process, which also includes the timely provision of financial support to affected developing country Parties for the preparation of their national reports as well as for the convening of regional meetings. Steps have been taken to approach donor countries for adequate resource mobilization and the secretariat will shortly communicate to Parties how the financial support to the reporting exercise will unfold, pending the response from donor countries and availability of funds.

B. Organization of the first session of the CRIC

17. It is anticipated that the CRIC at its first session will conduct a review according to the key thematic topics (as mentioned in paragraph 10 of the terms of reference of the CRIC), while not neglecting specific issues as they emerge from the inputs from regional meetings.

18. Enough time will be made available to discuss and adopt the comprehensive report of the CRIC, which will include conclusions and recommendations to the COP.

19. A provisional annotated agenda and a proposed programme of work will be circulated in due time, as stipulated in paragraph 9 of the terms of reference.

Annex

POSSIBLE STRUCTURE FOR THE REPORTS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES

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AFRICA

Part A Core report: Activities reported should strictly concern the implementation of the Convention

1) A summary
2) The consultative processes and partnership agreements in which the country is involved
3) Measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, both bilaterally and multilaterally

Part B Any other activities relating to combating desertification

ASIA

Part A Core report: Activities reported should strictly concern the implementation of the Convention

1) A summary
2) The consultative processes and partnership agreements in which the country is involved
3) Measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, both bilaterally and multilaterally

Part B Any other activities relating to combating desertification

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBEAN

Part A Core report: Activities reported should strictly concern the implementation of the Convention

1) A summary
2) The consultative processes and partnership agreements in which the country is involved
3) Measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels, including information on the financial resources they

have provided, or are providing, both bilaterally and multilaterally

Part B Any other activities relating to combating desertification

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Part A Core report: Activities reported should strictly concern the implementation of the Convention

1) A summary
2) The consultative processes and partnership agreements in which the country is involved
3) Measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, both bilaterally and multilaterally

Part B Any other activities relating to combating desertification